The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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Strong reasons make strong actions.—Shakespeare.

WHOLE NO. 959. WILLIAM GREEN, President WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 1929. FRANK MORRISON, Secretary VOL. 19, NO. 24.

ANCIENT IDEALS STUBBORNLY HELD

An idea that morally and spiritually enslaves is the last thing many persons reject.

One of these is confusing labor with wages.

The power to labor (called labor) differs from the products of labor. The workers' share of the products of labor is called wages.

Wages can not be classed with the power to labor. The latter is inherent in every man; it is his being; it is life itself. Wages is the result of that activity.

Slaves receive no wages—they are merely fed and sheltered by he who owns them.

The slave does not own his labor power because he does not own himself. The free man can not sell his labor power because he would sell himself.

The power to labor can not be placed on the auction block in this country. Neither can it be boxed up like steel furniture, nor bagged like cement. It is inseparable from man, who is endowed with memory, understanding and will.

The theory that labor is property is an echo of serf days. It is upheld by court dictum, cult workshippers and authoritarians.

These persons accept no view unless it is approved by the dominant forces of society and who profit by the serf concept. The agitator, to them, is always "dangerous"—for reasons that are apparent.

Adam Smith, eighteenth century economist and darling of Great Britian's rising mercantile class, is the refuge of those who defend the labor-is-property idea.

Smith lived in a time when workers dared not organize. They were assured wages could not rise above the cost of mere existence and that high wages injured business and increased production costs.

These theories now are ridiculed, but the labor-is-property idea is secretly held. It is the basis of the labor injunction. It is woven into the consciousness of men who talk of "contented" labor and wages set by law.

All other classes of citizens are encouraged to develop their individual lives, but workers must be "satisfied."

Trade unionists oppose this un-American ideal. They will eventually win, but they have no illusions that a centuries-old theory will be easily abandoned by those who would use government to enforce serf ideals.

U. S.-BRITISH SEA RIGHTS VIEWS HAVE WAR GERMS--George Young

Williamstown, Mass., Aug. 24.—Wide differences between the United States and Great Britain over sea rights were frankly discussed by George Young, Labor member of the British House of Commons, at the Arms Limitation Conference of the Institute of Politics.

"Two fundamentally different attitudes mark the policies of the two nations," said Mr. Young. "It is to command of the seas that we British owe our national existence, our colonial empire and our daily bread. It is to freedom of the seas that you Americans owe your national independence.

"To say that a collision over this issue is 'unthinkable' is equivalent to saying that we do not think. This question of sea power has already caused a war between us the Eighteenth century, another in the Nineteenth and nearly caused one in the Twentieth century during the World War.

"Since the great war I am aghast at realizing how far and how fast the American and British ships of state have come athwart each other's course and today are heading for a collision."

As a solution of the problem, the speaker advocated two things: "Renunciation by the British of command of the seas in respect to the right to declare a private blockade against a private enemy. Renunciation by Americans of freedom of the seas in respect to the right to supply sinews of war to a public enemy.

"At the same time," he declared, "we must have an agreement on general parity of naval armament from which we can proceed to reduce sea power to sea police. If we do not reach some such agreement before the Washington treaty expires in 1931 and we again become free to build any vessels we please inevitably the United States will assume command of the seas for the preservation of peace, just as the United Kingdom did a century ago."

CARE FOR CHILDREN WINS

The highest court of New York State ruled that the entire state has an interest in the manner in which people are housed in New York City, and, therefore, a law that is intended to eliminate tenement houses is constitutional.

The court refused to outlaw the act on the theory that it is counter to "home rule for cities."

"The proper rearing of children, that they may be healthy men and women, is not a city concern merely; it is the concern of the whole state," said the court.

This reasoning, in time, will apply to the proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution, which would permit Congress to legislate against child labor.

The people will discover that evils of child labor can not be limited by imaginary state boundary lines.

Child labor is a national issue, and the theory underlying the New York Court of Appeals' decision will eventually be enlarged to confound those who talk of states' rights when regulation of children is concerned, but who ask the government to check hog cholera and the boll weevil.

NOTED WRITERS AID TEXTILE STRIKERS

New York, Aug. 24.– More than a score of prominent writers, headed by Sherwood Anderson, Fanny Hurst and Theodore Dreiser, have formed a committee to raise funds for striking Southern textile workers.

The Clinchfield mills at Marion, N. C., has locked out more than 1,000 employes. These, with nearly 700 employes already out at that place, has created a serious condition. The same is true of other sections of the Carolinas and Tennessee. The United Textile Workers, affiliated to A. F. of L., is doing its utmost to relieve distress, and the writers issue this call: "The gallant fight now being made by the textile workers in the South is putting new life and new hope into their friends throughout the country. But they struggle; they suffer. They have no strike fund that will give them money to buy food, to pay for their rent or to pay doctors' bills."

EQUITY WINS RIGHT TO FIX AGENTS' FEE

New York, Aug. 24.—The Federal Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that Actors' Equity Association can regulate fee charges of booking agents.

The actors have been gouged by these agencies, as industrial workers are by private employment agencies. Equity recently passed a rule that these booking agents must be licensed by Equity and that charges shall be limited to 5 per cent of an actor's salary for not more than 10 weeks.

One of the agents rushed to the Federal district court for an injunction on the ground his business was injured. Federal Judge Frank J. Coleman restrained Equity from carrying out its decision, but the Court of Appeals, rules, in effect, that the actors have the right to decide under what conditions they will patronize these agents.

"The decision is most important and most opportune," said Paul Dullzell, executive secretary of Equity. "Our permit system is upheld and the court virtually indorses the form of the permit itself."

EDUCATION MACHINE HARMFUL TO TEACHERS

New York, Aug. 24.—"We are in grave danger of building up an enormous education-political hierarchy," Dr. Benjamin B. Kendrick, professor of history North Carolina College for Women, told a group of alumnae of that institution at a meeting in this city.

Dr. Kendrick took a position identical with the American Federation of Teachers, affiliated to A. F. of L., which insists that teachers be free from these machines.

"In practically every city," said the speaker, "we have highly paid executives who are engineering the thing, building up more and more chambers of commerce, Rotary and Kiwannis clubs and other civic or political groups.

"If we are to cure the ills of society the only hope is in the schools, schools where the teachers are kept free from such influences as threaten them through this hierarchy."

Labor Urges New Injunction Bill That Annuls Drastic Equity Rules

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 24.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council gave general approval to a bill that would limit authority of Federal courts to enjoin workers and would cancel labor injunctions now in force wherever these do not conform to the principles of the proposed measure.

The bill is an amendment to the Norris-Walsh (Mont.)-Blaine amendment to the Shipstead bill. The three Senators agree that equity courts should be checked, but they rejected the Shipstead bill because it changes the principle of equity to such an extent that it was feared it would be held unconstitutional.

The agreed-to bill declares:

"In determining the jurisdiction and authority of the courts of the United States, the public policy of the United States is hereby declared as follows: Whereas, under prevailing economic conditions—unorganized workers are helpless—it is necessary that they have full freedom of trade union organization—or in other concerted activities for the purpose of collective bargaining or other mutual aid or protection."

The right of workers to act singly or in concert is defined. Refusal of workers to handle non-union goods is conceded and the "yellow dog" contract is outlawed.

No applicant for an injunction is to be heard if he has violated any obligation of the law or failed to make every reasonable effort to settle such dispute.

A temporary injunction may be obtained, not by affidavit but by such testimony under oath as would be sufficient if sustained as well as posting a bond for the recompense of the person temporarily restrained if the injunction is not made permanent. No temporary injunction may extend longer than five days. Trial by jury is provided in all contempt cases. In the present law trial by jury applies to criminal contempts, that is, where criminal law is violated.

The amended bill would separate labor organizations from responsibility for unlawful acts committed by any member, officer or agent, except upon clear proof or authorization or ratification of such acts.

All present injunctions, such as the Bedford cut stone (which compels workers to handle non-union products) and the Hitchman coal "yellow dog" order, are annulled by this provision:

"Any restraining order or injunction heretofore issued or entered in contravention of the provisions of this act is hereby declared to be null and void and of no effect."

STEEL WORKERS GAIN

San Francisco, Aug. 24.—Improved work conditions feature a new contract signed by Iron, Steel and Tin Workers' Union and employers.

Gompers Memorial Prizes Awarded; Statue Will Typify Labor's Advance

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 24.—The awarded sculptors' plans illustrate important phases of the organization during the formation of great policies.

"Each of the three extremities of the memorial is terminated by a modern figure, seven feet high. These bronzes face the central statue and typify the living spirit and ideals of all branches of this nation-wide movement.

"It seems desirable that we depart from the usual more or less autocratic shapes and sizes of statues and obtain a democratic, restful and refined ensemble in keeping with this subject. It is also desirable that the A. F. of L. set a standard exemplifying the actually unovertumable policies of the organization that under past and present wise administrations has achieved an exalted place in the minds and regards of thoughtful Americans who take a just pride in the decades of progress here fittingly immortalized."

OLD WORLD TURMOIL HARMS PEACE PLAN

Washington, Aug. 24.—Cables from Europe and the Far East indicate a growing hostility between nations. This feeling may not break out in war, but an ugly spirit is engendered.

England and France are at diplomatic arrow's points over the question of reparations payments by Germany. Philip Snowden, British chancellor of the exchequer, charged that France secured the lion's share of the latest division, and that England will no longer placate France by agreeing to these divisions. Involved in the controversy are war debts, economic conditions and maintenance of Allied troops in the Rhineland, a part of Germany.

Snowden's position is resented in France, whose statesmen are developing a public opinion against England to support their stand. British public opinion, regardless of party, is likewise behind Snowden.

The Russia-Chinese dispute, at its base, is over the Eastern Chinese railroad, built by Russia, and which runs through Manchuria, the richest province of China, to the port of Vladivostok, on the Sea of Japan. This railroad gives Russia an outlet to the Pacific Ocean. Japan, England and other World Powers seem inclined toward China, as Russia's triumph would entrench that country in the Far East.

Military students are doubtful that Russia will go to war. They believe present clashes in Manchuria may be for the purpose of building a groundwork to secure concessions. If Russia declares war the Soviet authorities have to transport their military establishment thousands of miles across the single track Trans-Siberian railroad. This is a superhuman task, as was proven in the Russ-Japanese war. Russia and China have both signed the Kellogg peace pact.

SHEPPARD-TOWNER ACT HELPFUL TO MOTHERS

Washington, Aug. 24.—The Sheppard-Towner act, which expired June 30 last, was helpful to mothers and babes, according to an analysis of health and industrial hygiene, which is printed in the Monthly Review, issued by United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The act provided that the Federal government shall duplicate any amount that a State votes to promote welfare and hygiene of maternity and infancy. Massachusetts, Connecticut and Illinois were the only States that failed to co-operate with the government in the application of the act.

The measure was passed by Congress after much opposition. An effort will be made at this Congress to re-enact the law.

WORKERS LOCKED OUT

Marion, N. C., Aug. 24.—The Clinchfield Manufacturing Company locked out 1,000 textile workers who are now battling with 650 employes of the Marion Manufacturing Company against victimization and the 12-hour day.

Clinchfield mill workers were compelled to labor 12 hours and 20 minutes on the day turn and 11 hours and 20 minutes on the night shift. Adult women earn from $5.20 to $7.80 for a 60-hour week. The mill manager refused to read the workers' grievances. "You have no jobs," he informed the employes.

The mill management called for troops to "protect" strikebreakers and two companies of National Guardsmen were rushed to the scene.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS USED TO BREAK STRIKE

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 24.—Organized cigar makers' fight against the General Cigar Company at New Brunswick, N. J., was indorsed by the A. F. of L. Executive Council at its quarterly meeting here.

President Ornburn of the cigar makers' international told the council members that the company cut wages and attempted to increase hours. A. F. of L. Representative Hillfar charged that child labor laws are not enforced against the company, and that high school girls are used as strikebreakers.

A clean bill of health was recently given the company by State Labor Commissioner Charles Blunt, who ignored contrary statements in several affidavits.

The Essex Trades Council of Newark scored the State official, who, it was stated, made the investigation after he announced he would visit New Brunswick. The cigar company had ample time to temporarily adjust matters.

"ENFORCERS OF LAW" WOULD BREAK STRIKE

New Orleans, Aug. 24.—City officials would break the street car men's strike under the guise of "law enforcement."

Jitneys have operated since the strike started last July, although this is against a city ordinance. With the lightening of opposition against the strike, the ordinance is being enforced. The jitneys meet this attack by making a cigar coupon sending on tips. If the jitneys can be driven off the streets, the people will have no means of transportation, except street cars that are manned by strikebreakers and deputy marshals.

Strikers have been immune from prosecution. They disregard city and State traffic and safety laws and much property has been destroyed and many persons injured through the recklessness of these irresponsibles who have the Federal government behind them.

COMMUNISTS DIVIDED; MOSCOW GIVES ORDERS

New York, Aug. 24.—Bitterness between factions in the Communist party has been intensified by the expulsion of nine "leaders" on orders from Moscow.

The ousted brethren are accused of supporting a "right wing" red who was recently expelled by Moscow for heresy and defiance.

The ouster cablegram denounced "right wingers" as "opportunists, liquidators and renegades."

Moscow comrades have good press agents on this side who could sell gold bricks. They refer to their vicious tide of revolutionary labor movement in U. S. A."

STATE POLICE OUSTED

Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 24.—The Tennessee State Police Organization was disbanded automatically on decision of Chancellor James B. Newman that the police were being paid without warrant in law.

A Nashville citizen, who brought the complaint, contended that the police were operating illegally and asked that the organization be disbanded as "a general nuisance."

WIRE MEN RAISE WAGES

Montreal, Quebec, Aug. 24.—Wage increases and the 44-hour week are provided for in an agreement signed by contractors and Electrical Workers' Union No. 568. Rates will be 80 cents an hour the first year; 90 cents the second year and $1 the third year.

HOSIERY WORKERS WIN; HOSTILE LAWYER QUITS

Kenosha, Wis., Aug. 24.—Attorney Vilas Whaley of Racine, special prosecutor for the grand jury, has resigned.

This is the second victory recently won by locked-out hosiery workers of the Allen-A Company. The first victory was when a State legislative committee asked Judge E. B. Belden to resign. Belden borrowed money from an anti-union manufacturer who later cancelled that debt. Belden repaid this kindness by handing a $100,000 tax levy against his friend. Belden has opposed the hosiery workers and appointed Whaley special prosecutor.

Citizens are in revolt against the efforts to fasten crime on the unionists that has been committed by private detectives.

MANY MUNICIPALITIES USE LONG WORK DAY

Washington, Aug. 24.—The United States Bureau of Labor Statistics scores the long-hour practice of many municipalities. A total of 351 cities in 34 States compel street laborers to work 10 hours a day, 60 days a week. In cities of less than 2,500 population a 11-hour day is not uncommon.

"It is pretty generally agreed," says the Bureau, "that the public, when it acts as an employer, should be a good employer. If that is not agreed to, it ought to be. If there is anything that is well settled in the minds of reasonable men it is that the 10-hour day and the 60-hour week are, or ought to be, things of the past. They are tolerated in industry only in establishments generally referred to as sweatshops."

BRITISH MILLS OPEN

London, Aug. 24.—The 18-days' strike of half a million cotton mill workers in the Lancashire district ended and the wage reduction demand of mill owners will be passed upon by an arbitration board. The old wage rate will prevail until a decision is rendered.

Sir Horace Wilson, permanent secretary to the Minister of Labor, will serve as chairman of the board.

100,000 KILLED YEARLY; ONE-FOURTH ARE IN HOMES

New York, Aug. 24—One-fourth of the 100,000 fatal accidents in the United States each year occur to persons in their own homes, it was asked that Smith, manager New York State Insurance Fund.

PRINTERS RAISE WAGES

Cincinnati, Aug. 24.—A $2 weekly wage increase that dates back to May 1 is secured by newspaper printers. The contract runs for three years and has an arbitration provision. Rates for a 45-hour week, day work, is $53.25, and $59 for a 45-hour week, night work.

LABOR DAY SPEECHES WILL BE BROADCASTED

Washington, Aug. 24.—The Labor Day speeches of President Green and Secretary Morrison will be broadcasted by the National Broadcasting Company. Mr. Green speaks at Baltimore at 7 p. m., and Mr. Morrison speaks at Huntington, W. Va., at 12 noon.

Pacific Coast time is three hours earlier, mountain time two hours earlier and central time one hour earlier.

The National Broadcasting Company informed President Green that its facilities are always at the command of A. F. of L. executives. The Executive Council, at its meeting in Atlantic City, authorized President Green to accept the company's invitation.

Vice President Weber advised the council that the company has changed its policy of permitting labor to use A. F. of L. Mr. Weber is president of the American Federation of Musicians. He said the company considered there was considerable criticism on account of the musical features of labor programs and they realized they had to have the best. They contracted with the Musicians' Union and union conditions prevail.

LABOR EDITOR'S NAME IS PLACED ON SCHOOL

Atlanta, Aug. 24.—The labor editor and his work is finally recognized—the local Board of Education has named its latest school "Frederic Jones School."

Mr. Jones is editor of the Journal of Labor, publishes it in this city. He is a veteran trade unionist and has battled for social justice since the memory of man runneth not. The Board of Education takes this method of acclaiming his honorable citizenship and his long service in the cause of popular education and against child labor.

A CORRECTION

Last week's issue stated that C. L. Shamp, secretary-treasurer International Brotherhood of Stationary Firemen and Oilers, died in Omaha, Monday, April 12. It should read "August 12."

ACETYLENE WELDERS DENIED SINGLE UNION

Atlantic City, Aug. 24.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council denied a charter to an independent organization of acetylene welders. A. F. of L. conditions have ruled that the welders affiliate with the craft in which they are employed.

The welding system is being introduced in all trades and the Executive Council considered the application a challenge to the conventions as not meeting developments and claiming welding is a distinct craft. The Executive Council discussed the revolutionary changes in the methods and the displacement of labor which has been brought about by acetylene welding. It was declared that this system makes previous declarations all the more warranted, and that the welders should not be recognized as a separate craft.

WIN FIVE-DAY WEEK

Cleveland, Aug. 24.—The Building Trades Employers' Association accepted the five-day week proposal of organized building craftsmen.

The shorter week is effective August 31. Negotiations, initiated by the workers to relieve unemployment, have been on for several months.

Vare's Hope For Senate Blasted; Senator King Changes Position

Washington, Aug. 24.— Senator King, Democrat of Utah, has reversed his position on the seating of William S. Vare of Pennsylvania, who is charged with defeating William B. Wilson, former Secretary of Labor and secretary-treasurer of the United Mine Workers, for a seat in the Senate by fraud.

Senator King's announcement is a severe blow to Vare's hopes of winning the contest. The Utah Senator predicts that Vare will not receive 10 votes.

The Vare forces have pinned their hope on Senator King, a member of the Reed senatorial campaign expenditure committee that reported Vare's election was won by corrupt methods. As a minority member of that committee, Senator King advocated that Vare first be seated, in recognition of the State's rights theory, and then he expelled because of complicity in the campaign frauds.

It requires a two-thirds vote to expel a Senator after he has been seated. The Republican party's majority vote to refuse to seat him.

The Vare forces are making their fight on Senator King's integrity in court. By playing for seating on the technicality of State's rights, to be followed by expulsion, the latter could then be blocked by 33 votes.

Senator King is an outstanding champion of the State's rights theory, but declared he has been compelled to reverse his position in this case because he has found "that the election was so flagrantly fraudulent as to be entirely vitiated."

"It is entirely out of the question that the Senate will seat Mr. Vare," Senator King declared. "He has been losing strength continually from the time his right to the seat was first challenged. He will not receive 10 votes in the final test."

PRISON LABOR GOUGERS STING TRUSTFUL STATE

Des Moines, Iowa, Aug. 24.—State officials are frantic over the discovery that Iowa has been stung by prison labor contractors who owe the State thousands of dollars.

The exploiters were awarded the contract despite opposition by organized labor. State officials assured citizens that the contracts would reduce taxes. The usual sob stuff about the danger of idle prisoners was also handed out.

The politicians are striving to hush the scandal while they are seeking a settlement with the Dearborn Company, furniture manufacturers, who were given the contract.

John C. Lewis, president Iowa Federation of Labor, who led the fight against the contract, calls on Governor Hammill, who defended the contract, to protect the State's interests.

LEAGUE OF NATIONS' BIRTH TO BE OBSERVED

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 24.—The A. F. of L. Executive Council accepted an invitation from George W. Wickersham, former attorney general and chairman of a committee representing 25 organizations, to observe the tenth anniversary of the League of Nations, on January 10, 1930. The celebration will be in the nature of an educational and historical program covering the achievements of 10 years in promoting international co-operation.

The council authorized President Green to arrange for proper representation of the A. F. of L. on this occasion.

OLDER MEN ARE SAFER IN INDUSTRIAL WORK

Lansing, Mich., Aug. 24.—Older industrial and factory workers in this State experience fewer compensable injuries than younger men, according to the State Department of Labor and Industry.

Workers whose ages range from 20 to 24 years have an injury frequency 39 per cent greater than persons whose ages are 45 to 64 years, and 22 per cent greater than those between the ages of 25 and 44 years.

WORKERS' COMPENSATION IN ALL BUT FOUR STATES

Washington, Aug. 24.—Arkansas, Florida, Mississippi and South Carolina are the only States that have no workmen's compensation legislation, according to the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

North Carolina was in this list, but accepted the principle during the year.

GRANT STEWART DIES

Woodstock, N. Y., Aug. 24.—Grant Stewart, well-known actor and playwright, died suddenly here while visiting friends. He aided in organizing the Actors' Equity Association and was one of the leaders of the victorious strike of Equity actors several years ago in New York City when practically every Broadway theater was darkened.

He served several terms as recording secretary of Equity and edited Equity Magazine.

"RED" MARINE UNION BACKED BY OUTSIDERS

Atlantic City, N. J., Aug. 24.—The Marine Workers' League, a paper organization of "red" propagandists in New York, is not new and its organizers are not seamen, said Victor Olander of Chicago, secretary-treasurer International Seamen's Union, who attended the A. F. of L. Executive Council meeting.

"That this outfit are not seamen is proven by some of their demands—that sick seamen be returned to their home countries," said Mr. Olander. "Under the laws of every maritime nation the care and cure of sick seamen is an obligation on the owner, who must return the ill man to his home port. Not so the American who must pay his wages while ill and while on his way home. Were these 'red' propagandists seamen they would know that."

Mr. Olander called attention to the attack on Secretary Andrew Furuseth who is now in Europe fighting for the adoption of the American law that a seaman can quit his job in a foreign port.

"If these persons had any desire to help the seamen, if they had any power, like the Seamen's Act, as the International Seamen's Union is seeking, the freedom of the seamen," said the Chicago seaman, "they would in every country the sailor who quits his ship is liable to arrest and forfeits all wages due him. In every country a seaman may quit his job in any port and compel the payment of wages due.

"It is quite possible that a certain type of owner, careless of consequences, is encouraging this crowd to war on the legitimate Seamen's Union. I hope, however, this type is decreasing in numbers."

LIBERALS WERE ASLEEP WHEN WORLD WAR BEGAN

Hyannis, Mass., Aug. 24.—"Well-intentioned liberal nationalism was an important factor in the World War," Dr. C. J. H. Hayes, professor of history Columbia University, told the Institute of Politics here.

"Most nationalists during the last century were liberal and romantic," said Dr. Hayes. "They were interested in common every-day matters and common men. They wanted every nationality to be united politically.

"Unfortunately they centered their attention upon national, rather than international affairs, with the result that the actual conduct of international relations was in the hands not of liberals but reactionaries."

ALIENS GO TO CANADA; TRADE UNIONS OBJECT

Toronto, Canada, Aug. 24.—The replacement of Canadian workers by immigrants was denounced by the local Trades and Labor Council.

The council will ask the forthcoming convention of the Canadian Trades and Labor Congress to request the government to deport persons brought in to supplant Canadian workmen at the expense of the employer who engaged them.